

CCCS Early Elementary Subgroup Meeting

March 30, 2015 at 2pm

Conference Room 1 of the Patrick Henry Building

Via conference call at 1-866-842-5779 with pass code 8047865834

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Follow Up from Bethann Canada on VLDS Data Elements
- III. Achievement Gap in Early Elementary Years
- IV. Discussion of Workgroup Recommendations
See document with potential recommendations
- V. Next Steps: Process for Finalizing the Recommendations by April 24

April 24, Workgroup Recommendations due to Holly Coy by COB

Next Full CCCS Meeting:

May 4, 2015 at 3pm in West Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building

CCCS Early Elementary Subgroup Potential Recommendations for Discussion

Values Driving Recommendations

- Reading and math fluency by 3rd grade are golden benchmarks and should guide policy on assessments and interventions
- False dichotomy between developmental and academically focused programs; early childhood education programs must be student centered and help them progress in all arenas at their own pace
- We need a system that responds to the different needs of children entering the public school system, not just those with traditionally defined special needs. This should include those without Preschool experience, those with language needs, etc.
- Any new mandates around assessments need to be carefully considered alongside existing state and local mandates
- PreK experience is a benefit for children – fill in w/ state and fed data
- Leverage state funding and policy in concert with/ to maximize federal funding, rather than in conflict. (ie HS and VPI).

Potential Recommendations

Kindergarten Assessments

- FYI – the budget pending before the Governor currently \$1.5 million for voluntary participation in the UVA assessment that was piloted last year.
 - Recommendations on how to use data collected?
 - Making substitute available in classrooms while teachers administer assessments?

The Kindergarten Experience

- Junior kindergarten year helped close achievement gap; funding eliminated years ago
- Assistants in Kindergarten classrooms are stretched too thin, no longer providing needed classroom assistance
- Kindergarten Bridging Program for summer before kindergarten year

Meeting the Different Needs of Kids

- Expand home visiting in high risk communities
- Role of early and family literacy programs?
- Better parent engagement?

Data and Governance Related Recommendations

- Head Start assessments should be standardized and compatible with VLDS so that longitudinal studies can track their outcomes long term
- Metrics collected through home visiting programs should also be standardized and compatible with VLDS so that longitudinal studies can track their outcomes long term

Long Term Recommendations

- Does this particular subgroup need to continue? If so, what should its focus be? Are there other ways the Council can help advance these issues?